

A graphic featuring a large, stylized red hurricane symbol (a curved arrow) against a background of blue and white clouds. The text "HURRICANE SANDY" is prominently displayed in a bold, 3D font, with "HURRICANE" in white and "SANDY" in red.

HURRICANE SANDY

WHY THE JERSEY SHORE
WAS UNPREPARED...



A large, stylized red hurricane swirl is positioned behind the text. The background is a dark, stormy blue with white clouds and a bright light source creating a lens flare effect.

HURRICANE SANDY

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LACK OF HURRICANE WARNINGS

HURRICANE SANDY

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IRENE'S LACK OF IMPACT

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HURRICANE SANDY

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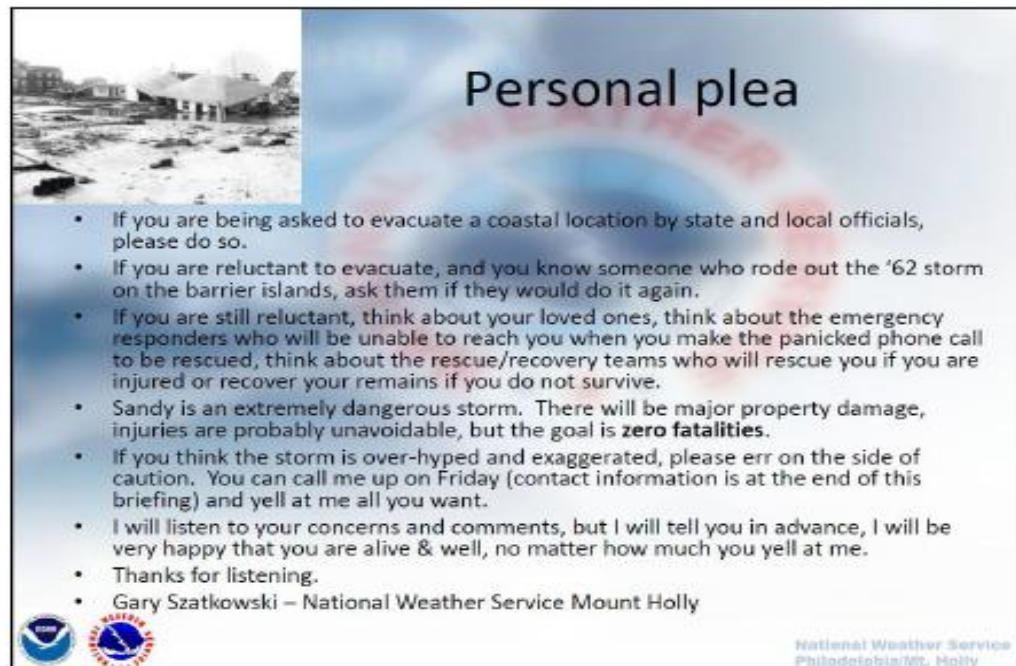
➤ LACK OF HURRICANE WARNINGS

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IRENE'S LACK OF IMPACT

➤ IMPROPER UNDERSTANDING
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➤ LACK OF DIRECT HIT IN DECADES

One particular briefing from WFO Mount Holly stood out for its frank and persuasive language and effectiveness in focusing immediate attention on the gravity of the situation. On Sunday, October 28, the Meteorologist in Charge (MIC) at WFO Mount Holly posted a personal plea (Figure 13) for coastal residents to evacuate if requested to do so by local officials. This MIC used a combination of history and a forceful plea to consider how remaining in their homes as rising waters trapped them would affect others. Many EMs interviewed pointed to this plea as the point when they realized the true magnitude of the threat. A media representative commented going “outside of the box” in this manner may have saved lives.



Personal plea

- If you are being asked to evacuate a coastal location by state and local officials, please do so.
- If you are reluctant to evacuate, and you know someone who rode out the '62 storm on the barrier islands, ask them if they would do it again.
- If you are still reluctant, think about your loved ones, think about the emergency responders who will be unable to reach you when you make the panicked phone call to be rescued, think about the rescue/recovery teams who will rescue you if you are injured or recover your remains if you do not survive.
- Sandy is an extremely dangerous storm. There will be major property damage, injuries are probably unavoidable, but the goal is **zero fatalities**.
- If you think the storm is over-hyped and exaggerated, please err on the side of caution. You can call me up on Friday (contact information is at the end of this briefing) and yell at me all you want.
- I will listen to your concerns and comments, but I will tell you in advance, I will be very happy that you are alive & well, no matter how much you yell at me.
- Thanks for listening.
- Gary Szatkowski – National Weather Service Mount Holly



National Weather Service
Philadelphia/Mt. Holly

Figure 13: Personal plea issued by WFO Mt. Holly MIC. Source: Mt. Holly WFO

OCEAN CITY LONGPORT BRIDGE

TED GREENBERG





STAN SPERLAK

REEDS BEACH





OCEAN DRIVE, AVALON
TOWNSENDS INLET







CAPE MAY, BEACH DRIVE

CAPE MAY WHALE WATCHER



STAN SPERLAK

REEDS BEACH



HURRICANES 40



HURRICANES 40



- Move faster, accelerate up the coast...impacts only 1 day

HURRICANES 40



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- Stronger winds: 75 - 115mph (Nor'easters usually 30 - 70mph)

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- Stronger winds: 75 - 115mph (Nor'easters usually 30 - 70mph)
- Weakens over colder water, can't stall
- More intense threat...but happens far less often (sometimes decades)









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ASH WEDNESDAY STORM

MARCH 5-9, 1962

PARENT LOW
WEAKENED...

COLD

GREATEST IMPACTS

...POWERFUL STORM
FORMED

- 42" OF SNOW
- WINDS TO 70 MPH
- MAJOR COASTAL EROSION
- 40-FOOT OFFSHORE WAVES

NOR'EASTERS 40



NOR'EASTERS 40



- Slower speed, longer event:
Impacts can last from 1 - 4 days

NOR'EASTERS 40



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Hurricane force gusts rare/possible

NOR'EASTERS 40



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- Storm can stall...maintain strength

NOR'EASTERS 40



- Slower speed, longer event:
Impacts can last from 1 - 4 days
- Tropical storm force winds common:
Hurricane force gusts rare/possible
- Storm can stall...maintain strength
- Multiple Nor'easters each year

SUNDAY
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DEADLY STORMS LEAVE THOUSANDS POWERLESS

Fire guts historic church in Longport

By WALLACE MURVEY

Firefighters attacked the loss of a church of the Reformation on Saturday after the Longport, N.J., town was engulfed in flames during an early morning thunderstorm.

The first-year-old Episcopal church was gutted by the fire, with its tower and roof collapsed inside the sanctuary and its white stone walls blackened by smoke. Church officials said they are rebuilding the church, which is among the oldest structures in the coastal community.

"It's just devastating," said Rev. Robert Schmitt, chairman of the church's board of trustees. "But life goes on. We will rebuild and we will grow."

Schmitt said the blaze was started by either a downed utility pole or lightning. Despite the presence of fire engines from several nearby towns, firefighters said high winds and the age of the building made suppressing the blaze nearly impossible.

"The old building went up like a candle," he said. "With winds blowing in miles per hour, they were having the fire like follow in a blacksmith shop."

Dedicated in 1910 and completed in 1915, the church has attracted a local congregation to the vacation town. Firefighters have across the country attend the church's summer camp.

—See Church, A1



A tree crashed through the roof early Saturday over Linda Parsh's bedroom on Mount Vernon Avenue in Northfield.



Firefighters battle flames early Saturday after the Church of the Reformation caught fire in Longport.



A utility pole dangers from wires Saturday at Peking and Mulbach avenues in Linwood.

2 children, boater die; electricity is days away

By SARAH WATSON

It may be days before electricity is restored after a line of destructive thunderstorms early Saturday brought hurricane-force wind gusts and sustained rain across the region, leaving thousands of people without power, officials say.

At the worst, more than 200,000 Atlantic City Electric customers statewide were without power, and utility officials said it may be days before electricity is restored. Gov. Chris Christie on Saturday ordered the National Guard to bring in power generators and water.

The storms also may be to blame for the death of a man after the boat he and his family were on capsized in Absecon Bay, the Coast Guard said. Two children, ages 2 and 7, were killed when a 30-foot pier was snapped in the strong winds and fell on their son in Pacific Star Park in Salem County.

—See Storms, A1

13 killed in Mid-Atlantic

The storms killed at least 13 and cut power to millions in the eastern U.S., AP.

The science of the storms

Scientists are unsure why the thunderstorms were called a derecho.

Storm wind gusts



Christie visits storm area, promises generators

The governor says most power should be restored by the end of July Fourth, barring the effects of another storm.

By LYNDY COHEN

Gov. Chris Christie assured residents Saturday that help was coming, promising generators and water to the area less than 12 hours after devastating storms came through the region.

"We are fully engaged," Christie said after meeting with officials at the Atlantic

County Office of Emergency Preparedness in Egg Harbor Township.

While this type of storm is not unusual for this time of year, he said, "what is unusual is that the effects were so widespread."

Devastated towns — including Hammonton and Glassboro — were the biggest problems.

More than 10,000 Atlantic City Electric customers — mostly in Atlantic County — remained without power as the governor spoke. He said more should have immediately been restored by the end of the day on July

Fourth. A few, however, might have to wait until the end of the week. That estimate, he stressed, was based on the damage from the first storm, another expected on the region Saturday night could push that time frame back.

"We'll be calling on power companies throughout the state to assist Atlantic City Electric," Christie said.

A formal state of emergency was declared in parts of Atlantic County. While Christie did not order people off roads, he

—See Christie, A1



Close












SPC Storm Reports for 06/29/12

Map updated at 0840Z on 06/30/12



TORNADO REPORTS.. (2)
WIND REPORTS/HI..... (739/33)
HAIL REPORTS/LG..... (52/5)
TOTAL REPORTS..... (793)

National Weather Service
Storm Prediction Center Norman, Oklahoma

- High Wind Report (65KT +)
- ▲ Large Hail Report (2" dia. +)

PRELIMINARY DATA ONLY

